

***Dumetella carolinensis.** CATBIRD.— On November 2 and 10, 1912, a Catbird, apparently in fine condition, was seen at Flushing, L. I. (B)

***Regulus satrapa satrapa.** RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET.— On September 30, 1911, a large flight of these Kinglets was observed in a patch of woods near Forest Hills, L. I. (B)



NOTES ON THE OCCURRENCE AND NESTING OF CERTAIN BIRDS IN RHODE ISLAND.

HARRY S. HATHAWAY.

DURING the interval which has elapsed since the publication of the 'Birds of Rhode Island' by Howe and Sturtevant in 1899, and the Supplement thereto in 1903, many records of rare and interesting birds have accumulated and are herewith published as a contribution to our knowledge of the avifauna of this state. The Western Willet, Arctic three-toed Woodpecker, Evening Grosbeak, and Nelson's Sparrow have been added to the list of the birds of the state. The breeding of Henslow's Sparrow, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Pine Warbler, Water Thrush, Winter Wren and Hermit Thrush has been established, while an increase in numbers of the Laughing Gull, Common Tern, Sparrow Hawk and Carolina Wren has been noted.

I am greatly indebted to Messrs. Charles B. Clarke, of Newport, Harry S. Champlin of Point Judith, Israel R. Sheldon of Pawtuxet, Miss Elizabeth Dickens of Block Island, and others for specimens and valuable notes, and I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to them.

Gavia stellata. RED-THROATED LOON.— Adult birds are rarely seen on our coast. A male in full nuptial plumage was taken off Newport on the late date of May 21, 1908, by Mr. C. B. Clarke.

Cephus grylle. BLACK GUILLEMOT. An extremely rare and irregular winter visitant. Additional records are as follows. A male shot January 1, 1906 off Sakonnet Point, a female December 30, 1906, at Newport and a male November 28, 1909, at Cormorant Roek off Newport. These birds, all in the gray winter plumage, were collected by Mr. C. B. Clarke and

the last two are in my collection. Mr. Clarke writing of their habits says, "I shot five birds in all in 1909 at Cormorant Rock, all single birds shot over duck decoys. They decoyed readily, but I do not know whether they would alight to them as I never gave them a chance. I have, however, before this, seen them swimming in the water, resembling a grebe very much but they are somewhat quicker in diving. One that I shot was under water before the shot got there and when he came up he was flying. He did n't go very far for the next shot brought him down."

Alca torda. RAZOR-BILLED AUK.—A male was sent me in the meat, shot by Mr. C. B. Clarke at Newport on January 9, 1909. This bird was minus a tarsus and foot lost in early life. Upon skinning I found eighteen "Silver sides" (*Menidia gracilis*) a small fish two to three inches in length, in its gullet.

Stercorarius pomarinus. POMARINE JAEGER.—One seen chasing a Tern on August 9, 1909, at Quonochontaug. Jaegers were fairly common during August and early September, 1910. The first ones noted were seen August 18th, at Quonochontaug, and three or four followed the Terns every day, making them drop the fish they were carrying to their young, which the Jaegers quickly secured. Eight were the most seen in a day, on August 26th. I have referred them to this species as being the commoner one in our waters. Two immature birds and an adult in fall plumage, shot at Point Judith on September 13, 1910, by Mr. H. S. Champlin, were sent to me in the meat.

Stercorarius parasiticus. PARASITIC JAEGER.—An additional record for this uncommon migrant is one taken by Mr. C. B. Clarke at Eastons Pond, Newport, on the late date of November 27, 1909. It was sent to me in the meat in a very emaciated condition.

Larus atricilla. LAUGHING GULL.—Formerly a rare migrant, this bird has rapidly increased in numbers since 1909 and during August and early September of 1912 it was fairly common along the south coast of this state, most of the birds being in immature plumage. An adult bird appeared off Quonochontaug on August 7, 1909, and up to the 27th of that month seventeen individuals were seen at various times in company with the Common Terns with which they mingled on the sand flats in Quonochontaug Pond. I shot a young female August 21, 1910, in this locality. Eight birds, the first noted in 1912 at Quonochontaug, were flying west along shore on August 4th. On the afternoon of August 19th a flight of Herring Gulls occurred on our coast and among them I saw about twenty Laughing Gulls in bunches of twos and threes all flying in a southwesterly direction toward Long Island Sound. Mr. Israel R. Sheldon reported that there were on August 22, 1912, about one hundred Laughing Gulls with at least two thousand Common Terns at Point Judith. An adult male and female were shot May 17, 1908, at Point Judith by Mr. C. B. Clarke and on May 26, 1912, I saw three adults on the Sakonnet River near Tiverton.

Sterna hirundo. COMMON TERN.—The protection given the Terns on their breeding grounds has led to a notable increase in their numbers along

our coast since 1907. Early in August of each year since, both old and young birds appear in daily increasing numbers, coming to the sand flats in Brightman, Quonochontaug and Charlestown Ponds and the breakwater at Point Judith where they find safe roosting places. Adult birds are flying back and forth all day over the ocean and ponds bringing small fish to the young birds congregated on the flats, and as the young get stronger of wing they accompany the adults on their fishing trips. On August 17, 1910, there were about a thousand birds on the Quonochontaug flats, and from information gathered from others, I estimated that there were at least seven thousand birds between Point Judith and Watch Hill daily during August, 1910. They all departed between September 5th and 8th. A large flight occurred on September 2, 1911. From early morning until sunset flocks of from five to sixty coming from the east, were flying continuously over the ocean and Quonochontaug Pond in a south-westerly direction. After this but few were noted, a lone individual being seen on November 5th. There must have been a great many thousand birds in this flight. During 1912 they were not as abundant as in the two previous years, but still were very plentiful.

***Sterna fuscata*.** SOOTY TERN.—A male in immature plumage was shot by Mr. C. B. Clarke on January 8, 1908, at Coddington Point, Newport, and is now mounted in my collection. This is the fourth record for this state. It is rather remarkable that a southern bird should stray so far north in winter.

***Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*.** BLACK TERN.—A flight of this species occurred on September 3, 1906, at Point Judith lasting nearly all day. The wind blew about thirty miles an hour from the southwest accompanied by rain. Small flocks were flying over the Point every few minutes coming from the northeast and flying into the wind. Late in the afternoon the wind shifted to light northwest and the flight ceased, but with the change in wind the terns commenced to appear in great numbers over the ocean coming from the southwest and leisurely feeding between Point Judith and Newport. The next morning none were seen, all having departed in the night. I shot a male in nearly adult plumage, the only one seen, all the others being immature birds.

***Puffinus borealis*.** CORY'S SHEARWATER.—Six of this species were shot from the deck of a tug boat between Watch Hill and Point Judith in Block Island sound on October 14, 1907, by Mr. C. B. Clarke. One was shot at Point Judith by H. S. Champlin on September 13, 1910. Mr. Champlin informs me that they were quite numerous in August and early September in company with Jaegers, inside the breakwater.

***Anas rubripes*.** BLACK DUCK.—A nest containing nine fresh eggs was found in the marsh at Point Judith on May 7, 1911. The female a small bird with green legs, flushed when I was about eight feet from her. On May 29, 1910, I found five young about three weeks old in the same marsh, two of which were caught with the aid of a dog and after banding, were liberated. Miss Elizabeth Dickens of Block Island informs me that she

had a pure white albino in her flock of twenty-three domesticated Black Ducks.

Chaulelasmus streperus. GADWALL.—This is one of the rarest ducks that visit us in the fall there being but two or three records of its occurrence in the state. An immature male was shot in a small fresh water pond at Point Judith on November 11, 1909, by Mr. Leon Champlin, from whom I secured it in the meat for my collection. The bird was alone at the time.

Mareca americana. BALDPATE.—While a few of this species are taken every fall on our coast it is uncommon in winter and early spring. A male and female in full nuptial plumage were shot by Mr. C. B. Clarke near Newport on March 19, 1909. Both birds were added to my collection. Mr. Harold N. Gibbs shot a female at Barrington on January 21, 1913.

Spatula clypeata. SHOVELLER.—The following records of this rare migrant are of interest. A young female was shot at Point Judith, September 24, 1908, and an immature male at Newport, November 7, 1908, by Mr. C. B. Clarke. A male and female in full nuptial plumage were shot in a small fresh water pond at Point Judith on April 29, 1911, by Mr. Leon Champlin who sent them to me in the flesh. They had been observed for a week previously in this pond in company with a pair of Black Ducks.

Marila valisineria. CANVAS-BACK.—A few are taken every fall in Charlestown Pond in company with the large flocks of Redheads that occur there more or less regularly in November. Two males in adult plumage were shot in a fresh water pond in Middletown, R. I., on November 18, 1905, one of which is in the Park Museum in Providence and the other in my collection.

Histrionicus histrionicus. HARLEQUIN DUCK.—Mr. C. B. Clarke informs me that he saw a bunch of a dozen in December, 1904, in the vicinity of Cormorant Rock, Newport, and that he shot two immature males on December 17, 1905, at the same locality. He had a very good chance to watch this pair as he lay concealed behind a rock. Speaking of their habits he says, "they are the most graceful birds in the water that I ever saw. They have a very peculiar way of swimming, moving along in a zigzag manner with their heads bobbing up and down as if in search of food. The rougher the water the better they seem to like it. Most ducks will dive through a breaker but the Harlequin swims right through as if the breaker did not exist." Mr. C. M. Hughes of Newport informed me that an adult male, two immature males and a female were shot at Cormorant Rock, Newport, on February 9, 1911. I purchased the adult male which is in full nuptial plumage.

Somateria spectabilis. KING EIDER.—This species occurs rarely among the flocks of American Eiders that resort to the vicinity of Cormorant Rock, Newport. Mr. C. B. Clarke during some fifteen years shooting at this locality has taken three specimens in that time. Two of these are in my collection, a male in post nuptial plumage of a mature bird probably two years or more old, shot January 21, 1909, and a female taken February 16, 1911.

Chen hyperboreus hyperboreus. LESSER SNOW GOOSE.—One of this species in immature plumage was shot on January 10, 1909, near a spring on Hope Island in Narragansett Bay and is now in the collection of Dr. Horace P. Beck of Newport, mounted on a panel as a "dead game" piece. The bird was in a very emaciated condition with its stomach empty, and when skinned was found to have one of its wings recently broken, and while it was quite well knit together, probably accounts for its being in this locality in midwinter. It measured as follows: wing 16 inches, tarsus 3.37 inches, bill 2.25 inches.

Olor columbianus. WHISTLING SWAN.—Two were seen by one of the Life Saving Crew at the Quonochontaug Station flying west over the ocean in October, 1908. Mr. Frank D. Lisle of Providence, on September 7, 1910, saw a swan in Trustom Pond in South Kingstown, gray in color with reddish head and neck. He watched it for some time through field glasses until it flew away. Mr. C. B. Clarke wrote me that during the first week of September, 1910, a swan flew over the marsh at Point Judith. In all probability the above were of this species. Miss Elizabeth Dickens of Block Island has given me the following information in regard to six swans that were shot on November 16, 1911, in Fresh Pond, the largest fresh water pond on the island. She says, "the wind was blowing at least 50 miles per hour from the west and they had alighted in the pond. Mr. Howard Stedman shot two of them, young birds which still retained a part of their gray plumage. L. Lewis Littlefield shot the remaining four, which had flown to the farther end of the pond when the first two were killed. He ended the lives of two adult birds with the first shell. The two that were left arose, but soon alighted beside the dead ones on the surface of the pond where Mr. Littlefield killed them also. Two of the six were sent to Newport, one of which was mounted and is in the possession of Mr. Clarke Burdick. The others were plucked and eaten. A seventh bird was killed in Harbor Pond, Block Island, December 28th or 29th, 1911, by Lycurgus Negus. It is a nearly adult bird still retaining gray feathers on the head and neck." This one was mounted and is now in the Park Museum at Providence.

Ardea herodias herodias. GREAT BLUE HERON.—A very interesting account of the flights of this heron on Block Island was recently given me by Miss Elizabeth Dickens. "On November 12, 1910, a flock of twelve appeared about 8:30 A. M. After circling awhile like gulls playing in air, they dropped down on the edge of the bluff, and they were a sight. Of course the gunners got after them and they departed. All the forenoon they came from the west in flocks of from two to sixty. I counted forty in one flock and sixty in another, that were in sight at one time. The Life Savers said this was one flock until their shooting divided them. Last fall, 1911, there was a similar flight though not so large, at about the same time."

Rallus elegans. KING RAIL.—Three records of this large rail all taken in winter are given by Howe & Sturtevant in their 'Birds of Rhode Island.'

Since these were recorded a number of specimens have been taken all in summer and fall, as follows: a male and female were shot May 3, 1904, and a male May 9, 1904, all at Eastons Pond, Newport, by Mr. C. B. Clarke. On October 13, 1907, Mr. H. S. Champlin of Point Judith, while searching in the long marsh grass for a duck he had just shot, stepped on and caught a female of this species. This specimen was sent to me in the meat. Mr. C. B. Clarke sent me four birds in 1909 from Point Judith shot on the following dates, August 26th, a female, September 3rd, an adult male which was moulting, patches of chestnut being mixed with worn gray feathers on the throat and breast; September 12th, a male and December 12th, a male. With the exception of the one that was moulting the others were in fresh plumage and I think were birds of the year. Mr. Clarke informed me that they were all shot in the "cattails" in the vicinity of a fresh water puddle and from the manner of their occurrence is led to believe that a pair nested.

Rallus virginianus. VIRGINIA RAIL.—This rail nests much earlier than is usually supposed. On June 4, 1906, I found a nest at Quonochontaug with one young and three eggs pipped, which were empty upon my return in an hour. May 26, 1907, a nest was found at Point Judith with eight eggs, four of which were within two days of hatching, three would have hatched in four days and one was infertile. May 29, 1910, at Point Judith, with the aid of a dog I caught two young at least two weeks old and another was seen running through the cattails. The eggs from which they were hatched must have been laid late in April.

Porzana carolina. SORA.—The Sora is rarer than the Virginia Rail in the breeding season in this state. A nest with fourteen eggs was found June 17, 1906, at Point Judith by H. S. Champlin. The nest was visited again on the 19th when it was found empty, the eggs having hatched in the meantime. On May 29, 1910, I found a nest with nine fresh eggs at Point Judith near a small fresh water pond. It was built in a small clump of "cattails" in a very open spot and readily seen from all sides.

Coturnicops noveboracensis. YELLOW RAIL.—The Yellow Rail occurs quite regularly during the fall migration. The following records of birds all secured at Point Judith are of interest. Mr. C. B. Clarke shot two October 10, 1908, and Mr. William T. Bowler took two more on October 15th of the same year. These birds were not saved. October 15, 1909, Mr. Clarke took a male which he sent to me and it is now in my collection. Four were killed in October, 1910, by Mr. William T. Bowler. September 30, 1911, a female was shot by Mr. Charles L. Knowles in a fresh water run, and on October 1, 1911, another specimen was caught by a dog and one other seen. The last two birds were sent to me in the meat by Mr. I. R. Sheldon who writes as follows. "I do not think the Yellow Rail is anywhere near so rare as recorded. Out of thirty rails that I have seen this fall at Point Judith, four were this species, ten Virginias and sixteen Soras. They are very hard to flush and for this reason I think less rare than supposed to be. I have caught two birds with my hands." Mr. W. T. Bowler shot one, October 15, 1911, at Newport.

Steganopus tricolor. WILSON'S PHALAROPE.— I took a male of this rare Phalarope at Quonochontaug on August 28, 1909. It came into my decoys at dusk, and alighted among them.

Macrorhamphus griseus scolopaceus. LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER.— A female of this rare shore bird was shot on September 25, 1908, by Mr. C. B. Clarke at Point Judith, which he sent to me in the meat and it is now in my collection. It measured as follows: wing 5.87 inches, tarsus 1.65 inches, bill 2.87 inches. Mr. Clarke informs me that twelve or fourteen years ago he shot a bunch of eleven of this species in the spring of the year on the Eastons Beach marsh at Newport, and that the above specimen is the only one he has seen since that time.

Micropalama himantopus. STILT SANDPIPER.— Some years this species occurs quite commonly during the fall migration and in others it is rare. During a flight at Point Judith on September 1, 1906, several were shot, all young birds. I shot a male in adult breeding plumage that came to my decoys on July 30, 1911, at Quonochontaug, R. I.

Pisobia maculata. PECTORAL SANDPIPER.— I took a very late bird at Point Judith marsh on November 2, 1902, the only one seen.

Pisobia bairdi. BAIRD'S SANDPIPER.— As this is one of our rarest Limicolae, individual records are of interest. I took a male August 14, 1907, and a female August 30, 1912, both at Quonochontaug. The latter was alone and came to my decoys when I imitated the call notes of the Pectoral Sandpiper.

Ereunetes mauri. WESTERN SANDPIPER.— Occurs sparingly among flocks of Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers. Out of a flock of a dozen "peep" I shot a young male on September 7, 1908, at Point Judith. At Quonochontaug in 1912, I shot three, a female August 23, a male each on August 24 and 26. These were all immature birds which were easily identified by their longer bills as they searched for food on the sand flats, among the flocks of "peep."

Limosa fedoa. MARBLED GODWIT.— An extremely rare straggler in this state. One was shot by a gunner named Merritt on September 7, 1908, at Sakonnet Point. The specimen was mounted and is in his possession.

Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus. WESTERN WILLET.— The western form of the Willet has never been recorded as occurring in Rhode Island, yet doubtless all that have occurred in recent years belong to this subspecies. It occurs as a regular fall migrant, some years more abundant than others. The first bird that I have a record of, I shot on August 9, 1905, at Quonochontaug. A flock of eight came to my decoys on August 18, 1907, at the same place, two of which I shot, both females. In August, 1912, they were more abundant than I have ever seen them, some eighteen having been seen between the 9th and 23rd on the Quonochontaug marsh. Mr. I. R. Sheldon informed me that he saw twenty-five August 23 on the Point Judith marsh. All of the birds that I have shot were in immature plumage. Earliest bird noted on August 5, 1906. I have

never seen one of the eastern form in this state and do not know of any in local collections.

Machetes pugnax. RUFF.—Mr. William T. Bowler shot an immature female on September 7, 1909, on the Point Judith marsh, which was in company with two Pectoral Sandpipers. This is the third record for the state and is now in my collection.

Tryngites subruficollis. BUFF-BREADED SANDPIPER.—Additional records for this rare fall migrant are as follows: Mr. I. R. Sheldon shot one near the "causeway" on the island in Point Judith Pond on September 2, 1905. Mr. C. B. Clarke shot a female September 23, 1904, at Little Compton, which I purchased of him for my collection. He took another specimen at the same locality on the early date of July 22, 1906.

Charadrius dominicus dominicus. GOLDEN PLOVER.—This fall migrant is fast becoming one of our rarest shore birds. In August and September of 1909, quite a number were taken on the Point Judith marsh. I have two females, shot August 21, and a male and female shot August 30, of that year which are in worn breeding plumage and moulting. About half of the feathers on the throat and belly are black, the rest white, giving the bird a mottled appearance. Mr. C. B. Clarke who obtained the birds informed me that during fifteen years shooting he has seen but very few in this plumage.

Ægialitis meloda. PIPING PLOVER.—The Piping Plover is an extremely rare summer resident and migrant in this state. A pair have bred for five years on a pebbly beach in Newport County. I was informed of their presence at this spot in 1908, and visited the locality on June 4, 1909, readily found the adults and judged from their actions that they had young. In 1910 I paid them a second visit on June 19, and after a wait of an hour under a blind, I saw three young a few days old running along the beach. June 4, 1911, I found them in the same spot and the female led me a chase of a hundred yards, acting as if she had a broken wing. I spent an hour under the umbrella blind, and at last saw two young less than a week old feeding along the sandy beach. The old birds did not come near the young at any time and were very wary. My last trip was on May 26, 1912, found the birds as usual, and hiding under the blind, in less than three minutes the female ran up the beach beyond high water mark and vanished from sight among the pebbles, which she so closely resembled in color. It took me but a moment to reach the spot where I saw her fade from sight, and there in a slight hollow in the sand on a few pieces of broken shells were four eggs, which I photographed. It is remarkable, that one of the Limicoke family, which has to run the gauntlet of such a host of gunners in their migration, should safely return to nest year after year in the same identical spot.

Ectopistes migratorius. PASSENGER PIGEON.—There is no definite breeding record that I can find of this bird though it formerly bred here in abundance. In Forbush's 'History of the Game Birds, Water Fowl and Shore Birds' on page 346 I find "Roger Williams (1643) says that the

Pigeons bred abundantly in Rhode Island in the Pigeon Countrie." Mr. F. T. Jencks of West Barrington, R. I., our veteran ornithologist, has written me as follows: "Once in West Greenwich, a Wild Pigeon flew from a pine tree to another near by and I shot it, a beautiful male. I went and looked where he flew from and found a nest with one egg which I took. I don't remember what disposition was made of these specimens. It was close to 1880, probably in May, but more likely before 1880 than afterward. Shooting Wild Pigeons and Mourning Doves are two different propositions, the first was easy the latter generally not." I have in my collection a mounted adult male taken on the "Whittaker" grounds in Cranston in October, 1854, by Percia Aldrich and mounted by him. What is undoubtedly the last one shot in this state is a young bird taken by Walter A. Angell November 2, 1886, in Cranston, now in my collection. Mr. William A. Sprague, of Providence, saw one sitting on a telegraph wire in Glocester on September 25, 1888, which allowed a near approach and remained on the wire until he was some distance away. This is the last instance that I know of its occurrence here.

Cathartes aura septentrionalis. TURKEY VULTURE.—I have a mounted specimen in my collection shot by Le Roy Knowles at Point Judith on June 16, 1908. When first seen the bird was perched on a stone wall and appeared to be much interested in Mr. Knowles' chickens. Fearing that the vulture might molest them, Mr. Knowles shot him. Miss Elizabeth Dickens has written me that one was shot on Block Island, April 12, 1912, and was mounted and in the possession of Lycurgus Negus.

Falco peregrinus anatum. DUCK HAWK.—The following very interesting account of the occurrence of this species on Block Island was given me by Miss Elizabeth Dickens. "Grey Bonnet" the tyrannus falcon, appeared here April 26, 1912. He is a foeman worthy of my steel, but I've never been able to kill one yet although I have made the feathers fly a number of times. One can't but admire his wisdom and cunning, and the wonderful feats he performs in air. They are very common with us both spring and fall. Have recorded forty-six during the fall of 1912."

Falco sparverius sparverius. SPARROW HAWK.—Recorded by Howe & Sturtevant in 'Birds of Rhode Island' as an uncommon summer resident. There has been a decided increase in their numbers during the last ten years, and now they may be called a regular summer resident, breeding locally and often wintering. I took a set of four fresh eggs on May 26, 1903, in Warwick which were laid in a hollow cavity in a dead tree. A pair occupied an old woodpecker's hole in the side of an ice house in Cranston and on May 24, 1907, I found a set of five eggs incubated ten days. The female would not leave the nest and I had to remove the eggs from under her with a scoop net. Another pair were in an old flicker's hole in a telegraph pole eight feet up, beside a much travelled highway in Cranston. It contained four fresh eggs on May 14, 1911. The bird was in the nest and would not leave. Inserting a scoop net she struck at and grasped it with her feet and was pulled out clinging to it. I saw two individuals in Janu-

ary, 1911, and a pair which were apparently mated, on February 22, of the same year, all in Warwick.

Cryptoglaux acadica acadica. SAW-WHET OWL.—An additional record of this rare winter visitor is a female taken on November 1, 1910, at Point Judith by Mr. H. S. Champlin.

Picoides arcticus. ARCTIC THREE-TOED WOODPECKER.—An adult male was shot in Barrington on December 25, 1905, by a boy from whom it was purchased by Angell & Cash, taxidermists in Providence. While in a grove of pitch pines on Potowomut Neck in Warwick on February 22, 1911, I saw one of this species busily engaged in digging out a grub from the trunk of a dead pine tree. I fired at the bird but he flew off unhurt. I returned to this tree later on and found the bird at work, fifteen feet up the trunk. He did not mind my presence in the least and let me approach the foot of the tree. Another attempt to collect it was unsuccessful and I did not see the bird again. These are the first two instances of their occurrence in this state.

Nuttallornis borealis. OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER.—I saw one perched on the topmost limb of a large dead white pine in Charlestown on June 5, 1910. When some distance from the tree I heard its loud call notes and upon approaching, it flew out of sight. This is the first one I have ever seen and it is an extremely rare migrant with us.

Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos. CROW.—Dr. H. P. Beck of Newport kindly permits me to record an albino that was killed on Prudence Island in December, 1910. The bird is mounted in his collection.

Sturnus vulgaris. STARLING.—This old world species first introduced into New York City made its appearance in this state at Silver Spring in East Providence in the summer of 1908. I was informed of their presence here by Mr. I. R. Sheldon who saw seven or eight birds and said they had nested there that summer. I saw a flock of thirty-two in an elm tree in Warwick on December 17, 1911. Prof. H. E. Walter of Brown University told me of seeing seven on April 2, 1912, in East Providence and that he saw two enter holes in trees. During December of 1912 about a dozen were reported as roosting in the steeple of the church in Rumford. Miss Elizabeth Dickens wrote me that her father saw the first Starling on Block Island on October 2, 1912, and on November 23, 1912, a flock of twenty were seen.

Molothrus ater ater. COWBIRD.—A male and female were seen on Block Island, January 10, 1913, by Miss Elizabeth Dickens. The weather had been very mild up to this time.

Euphagus carolinus. RUSTY BLACKBIRD.—Two of this species were feeding along the banks of a running brook in Warwick on February 4, 1912, one of which I secured, a male now in my collection. The weather had been very severe during January, and all nature was encased in snow and ice. This is the first record for this bird wintering with us.

Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina. EVENING GROSBEAK.—Miss Anna E. Cobb reported having seen a male on January 7, 1911, in Meshanti-

cut Park, Cranston. A flock of five females and two males were observed in Woonsocket on January 13, 1911, and for several days thereafter, as recorded in the March-April 1911 "Bird-Lore." These are the first instances of its occurrence in this state.

Loxia leucoptera. WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL.—A flock of forty of this uncommon winter visitor were reported feeding on hemlock cones in Johnston, November 20, 1906. I visited this locality on November 24 and secured three females from a flock of twenty-four. On December 22 I shot two males at the same place and saw twelve others. They were last seen on January 13, 1907. Five females were on the ground under a large hemlock picking up the seeds that had fallen from the cones. They were very tame and allowed me to come within two feet of them before they flew into the lower branches of the tree.

Passerherbulus henslowi henslowi. HENSLOW'S SPARROW.—A rare local summer resident occurring only in the southern part of the state but principally in the town of Charlestown. Perched on a weed stalk, fence, stone wall or rock in some old pasture grown up to weeds and briars, its plain little song resembling the words "se-lick" may be heard at all hours of the day during the breeding season. I heard two males singing at Bridgetown, May 10, 1903, one August 5, 1905, near Niantic, two at Quonochontaug May 11, 1906, one May 9, 1909, at Kingston, and May 13, 1910, in a field of some twenty acres in extent in Charlestown I heard seven singing. On June 5, 1910, I visited the Charlestown locality, and with the aid of my son C. H. Smith Hathaway we dragged the fields with a rope in an endeavor to find a nest, but with no result other than to collect two males. In 1911 on May 28th, my son and I again dragged the old pasture, and we had not proceeded more than a hundred feet when a female flushed from a nest containing three fresh eggs and one of the Cowbird. We left the eggs unmolested, continued our dragging and in about two hours flushed another female from a nest with four eggs in exactly the same situation as the first one, set in a cluster of dead grass and very open to view. The nests were built entirely of grasses lined with fine dead grasses, quite deeply cupped. I endeavored to collect the last female but was unsuccessful. She led me a long chase, flying low from one clump of bayberry bushes to another and instantly diving out of sight, finally disappearing. One very distinctive character noted was the chestnut brown color of the bird in flight. The last set found was incubated some seven or eight days. Returning to the first nest I carefully approached and succeeded in getting within two feet of it. The bird was on, in plain sight, and I could see the olive green feathers of the nape and the chestnut brown of the back with black streaks. In attempting to touch her she sprang six feet into the air flirting and spreading her sharp pointed tail feathers, and flew in a zigzag manner into a nearby bayberry bush. In each instance the males were singing within a hundred feet of the nest. These are the first records of its breeding in this state.

Passerherbulus nelsoni nelsoni. NELSON'S SPARROW.—Nelson's Sparrow occurs rarely during the fall migration in company with the

Acadians. One which I shot October 15, 1905 in the Charlestown Beach marsh was kindly identified by Mr. William Brewster as "nearly typical" of this subspecies. I am indebted to Dr. C. W. Richmond of the U. S. National Museum for the identification of a male which I took at Quonochontaug on October 17, 1909. These are the first records for this state and both specimens are in my collection.

Passerherbulus nelsoni subvirgatus. ACADIAN SHARP-TAILED SPARROW.—A common fall migrant along the coast occurring in all the salt marshes. I have two males and a partial albino which I shot October 15, 1905, in the Charlestown Beach marsh, and a male shot October 8, 1911, at Quonochontaug. It doubtless occurs as a spring migrant, but I have no record.

Passerherbulus maritimus maritimus. SEASIDE SPARROW.—Occurs as an uncommon summer resident in nearly all of the salt marshes on our southern coast, variable in numbers in different years, due no doubt to the flooding of the marshes by rain. Two nests were found at Quonochontaug, June 16, 1907, one containing three eggs nearly ready to hatch, and the other with four eggs incubated eight days. The latter set is in my collection. The nests were well concealed in the short coarse dead marsh grass, just above the surface of the shallow water that covered a small part of the marsh to a depth of three or four inches. I took a female October 3, 1909, at Charlestown Beach, and a male October 12, 1912, at Quonochontaug.

Zonotrichia albicollis. WHITE-THROATED SPARROW.—Winters occasionally. I saw five at Apponaug on February 12, 1911, feeding on the fruit of the barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*). Two were seen in a "cattail" swamp in Cranston, December 25, 1912, in company with a small flock of Tree Sparrows.

Progne subis subis. PURPLE MARTIN.—The cold rainstorms of June, 1904, nearly exterminated the martins in this state. They have never regained their former abundance and I know of but few that nest with us. Doubtless, they would increase if suitable houses were put up to attract them. A small colony of a dozen pairs occupies bird houses in Shannock regularly every summer. I took a fresh set of five eggs on June 10, 1911, from a bird house in Charlestown which had two pairs for tenants.

Lanius ludovicianus migrans. MIGRANT SHRIKE.—A rare migrant. At Quonochontaug, August 14, 1903, while perched on the limb of a dead tree, one was busily engaged eating a large grasshopper. It allowed me to approach within a few feet giving a good opportunity to identify it. Mr. F. T. Jencks shot one in Barrington on September 3rd of the same year. I saw one on a telephone wire August 26, 1912, at Quonochontaug but was unable to secure it. Miss Elizabeth Dickens of Block Island, in August, 1912, found one dead, killed by flying against a telephone wire, and saw five others.

Vermivora celata celata. ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER.—A male of this very rare migrant was shot by the late James W. Stainton in Cranston on May 17, 1892. It is now in the collection of Rhode Island birds in the Park Museum at Providence.

Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.—I first heard the song of this dainty little warbler on June 10, 1906, in a grove of white pines, hemlocks, and deciduous trees bordering on a swamp in the town of Burrillville. Beneath the trees a luxuriant growth of mountain laurel was just coming into bloom, and it seemed such a favorable locality for the birds to breed in, that I instituted a search for a nest, but did not succeed in finding one. I was in this locality on June 26, 1910, heard three males singing, and saw a female feeding a young Cowbird much larger than herself. May 30, 1911, I spent several hours hunting for a nest, found two old ones in low laurels and was on the point of abandoning the search, when a female flew up in front of me from her nest. It was built in the forks of a small laurel, ten inches above the ground, and contained four nearly fresh eggs. I sat down near the nest, and after a few moments, both male and female came within a few feet, giving me a good opportunity to study them at close range. This is the first record of its breeding in this state. A mile south of this locality I heard two more males singing on the day the nest was found. June 16, 1912, I heard three males singing in laurel growths in Exeter. It may now be called a rare local summer resident, breeding along the western border of the state.

Dendroica vigorsi. PINE WARBLER.—The first authentic record of the breeding of this warbler was published in 'Bird Lore', Vol. XIII, no. 4, p. 187. I found a nest on May 27, 1911, in Coventry, containing five young a day or two old.

Seiurus noveboracensis noveboracensis. WATER-THRUSH.—Three or four pairs breed regularly each year in the swamp in Washington County where I first found their nest as described in 'The Auk' of October 1906. They are not as plentiful as at that time, due doubtless to the fact that the soil has almost completely fallen out of the roots in which they built their nests. A fresh set of five eggs was found at this locality on May 18, 1912.

Icteria virens virens. YELLOW-BREADED CHAT.—Miss Elizabeth Dickens writes me that on August 22, 1912, there was a migration of Chats on Block Island, she having seen as many as fifty in a flock.

Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus. CAROLINA WREN.—This species has increased in numbers during the last few years and may now be called a rare local summer and winter resident. Dr. Leon J. Cole informed me that he had heard two singing in Kingston, near Dr. Hadley's residence on April 3, 1910. I visited this locality on April 23rd and found one of the birds singing its loud "tea kettle" song from the topmost limb of a maple tree. Mr. E. D. Keith informed me that he had heard one singing on different days during February and March, 1911, in the Roger Williams Park swamp in Providence. Mr. R. C. Murphy heard one at different times in May, 1911, on Neutaconkanut Hill in Johnston.

Nannus hiemalis hiemalis. WINTER WREN.—On May 24, 1908, in company with Messrs. A. C. Bent of Taunton, Mass., and John Flanagan of Providence, I visited a swamp in Washington County to search for nests

of the Water Thrush, *Seiurus noveboracensis noveboracensis*. I soon found one in the upturned roots of a fallen tree with five eggs, and while waiting for my companions who were some distance from me, to come and see the nest, I inspected another upturned root a short distance from the first, and had the good luck to find a nest of the Louisiana Water-Thrush, *Seiurus motacilla*. This nest was in the lower right hand edge of the root about a foot above the water, and contained four eggs and two young just out of the shell. My companions having arrived at the spot, Mr. Flanagan called our attention to a Winter Wren that alighted on the root. We walked away a short distance and in a few moments she came in sight again with a caterpillar in her bill and disappeared among the roots. Going to the tree we soon found the wren's nest in the same roots with the nest of the Louisiana Water-Thrush, about four feet from it in the upper left hand edge. It was built in a cavity of the roots with weed stalks for a foundation, composed externally of green sphagnum moss, lined with soft grasses and a few white hairs of the Red Deer; globular in shape, with a small hole in the side for an entrance, it contained six young a week old. We heard the male singing its joyous, rippling song several times while we were in the vicinity of the nest. This is the first and only instance of its nesting in this state.

Cistothorus stellaris. SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN.—Recorded in "Birds of Rhode Island" as a rare summer resident nesting at Newport. I have searched in several favorable localities for it, but have never heard or seen one. In the collection of the late Snowden Howland of Newport, now deposited in the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, is a set of five eggs taken in the "cattails" of Eastons Pond, Newport, on June 7, 1879.

Hylocichla guttata pallasi. HERMIT THRUSH.—Formerly known as a common migrant the Hermit Thrush has in recent years become a regular summer resident, locally dispersed, and breeding. The first nest was found by Mr. Walter A. Angell in Kent County on June 14, 1905, and contained five eggs incubated one week. Four more nests were found by him in the same locality one of which he kindly gave me the location of, and which I visited on July 10, 1907. I found the female on the nest and readily identified her. The nest was on the ground at the foot of a small laurel and contained three fresh eggs. On June 8, 1907, I heard two males singing in pitch pine woods in Coventry. Three males were singing on May 25, 1909, in South Kingstown and I have heard two or three every year in May and June in the same locality. June 12, 1909, I found a nest in Coventry with three nearly fresh eggs. It was on the ground between two small pine saplings not over a foot high, composed of dead leaves, weed stems, shreds of bark, and pine needles, and lined entirely with pine needles. A very bulky nest with thick walls and well rounded edge. Ten individuals were noted at various localities in 1909, their favorite haunts being the dry pitch pine and scrub oak regions.